Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC).

(b) to (d) As a follow up of the budget announcement a Working Group under the Chairmanship of the then Secretary (Banking) was constituted by the Reserve Bank of India to work out the modalities for setting up of the IDFC. Further, consequential steps for setting up the IDFC are being taken. Business plans and targets will be determinal by the IDFC after it has been set up and operationalised.

Percentage of NPA to Total Assets

1202. DR. B.B. DUTTA. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the non-performing assets as percentage of total assets of nationalised banks during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) the reasons for high percentage of non-performing assets of certain banks; and

(c) how Government propose to improve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a): The percentage of non-performing assets to total advances of nationalised banks during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 has been 25.84, 19.98 and 18.22 respectively.

(b) and (c): The most important reasons for high percentage of NPAs are growing industrial sickness, risks involved in credit lendings, wilful defaults, internal and external factors which are beyond the control of the borrowers protracted litigation and inadequate and pre-disbursement appraisal and post-disbursement supervision. In order to bring down the percentage banks have been advised to evolve loan/recovery policies and set up recovery cells at Head Offices/Zonal Offices/Regional Offices. Recovery targets are also required to be fixed for branches and monitored at frequent intervals by their officers including Chairman or Managing Directors/Executive Directors. Banks are being advisd to improve their credit appraisal and credit supervision machineries. Debt Recovery Tribunals have been set up at Jaipur, Delhi Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Calcutta and Madras and one Appellate Tribunal has been set up at Bombay to settle disputed dues of banks expeditiously

Proposal to increase Joint Venture and Code Sharing Foreign Airlines

1203. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase joint venture and code sharing with foreign airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) With a view of increase its market presence, Air India is continuously exploring the possibility of expanding its Code-Share operation in co-operation with European, American and South East Asian Carriers. Such Code-Share/Joint Venture arrangements are already operative with Scandinavian Airline System, United Airlines, Kuwait Airlines, Malaysian Airlines, Gulf Air and Air Mauritius.

Accumulated Airport charges to be paid by Private Airlines

1204. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount private airlines owe to Government by way of airport charges;

(b) in what way Government propose to recover this amount;

(c) whether the private airlines have also violated maintenance requirements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL

AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Private Airlines owe Rs. 2346.43 lakhs to the Airports Authority of India (AAI) on account of airport charges. They are being reminded regularly to clear their outstanding dues failing which their security deposit will be adjusted against their outstanding dues. Further, credit facilities have also been withdrawn in some cases. AAI is making all efforts to recover the outstanding dues.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Action has been taken against the Engineering/ maintenance personnel of India International Airways, East West Airlines, Damania Airways, Saraya Aviation, Mesco Airlines, Modiluft, Continental Aviation Ltd., Sahara India Airlines and NEPC Airlines for violation of safety/maintenance norms prescribed by the DGCA.

Restructuring of Insurance Industry

1205. SMT. VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement of President of an international Government relations US firm, as reported in "Rajasthan Patrika" of October 23, 1993, that a restructured insurance industry in India may be able to attract massive foreign capital to India in the form of premium contributions and private investments from 16 million NRIs;

(b) if so, what is the nature and extent of restructuring proposed to be made; and

(c) what is Government's decision regarding appropriate restructuring of the insurance industry?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The Govt. is not aware of any such Report in 'Rajasthan Patrika' of Oct. 23rd, 1993. However, a report to this effect has appeared in 'Rajasthan Patrika' on Oct. 23rd, 1993.

Under the existing law, insurance business both life and general, is the exclusive privilege of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC); General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC); and its four subsidiaries. The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) of the Government envisages that "There is room for public sector companies and private sector companies to co-exist and compete in the financial sector. We have gained considerable experience in the working of the banking sector. The said experience will be applied to the restructuring of the insurance industry, but at the same time, public sector companies like LIC, GIC, etc. will be strengthened."

The Government is currently processing a Bill for giving statutory basis to the Insurance Regulatory Authority set up in January, 1996. Other measures for reform of the insurance sector are being examined in consultation with the Insurance Regulatory Authority.

Delimitation of Constituencies

1206. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been a phenomenal increase in urban population since 1976 when the territorial constituencies for both Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies were made unalterable till after the census of 2001;

(b) whether Government are aware that such a step has resulted is disparity and underrepresentation;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take for delimitation of constituencies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) The Government has already